

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A modular control unit (3) for a control panel (2) for video apparatus, the control unit (3) including which is in the form of at least an operating module (31) and a control module (32), the control module (32) having a first interface (37) for connection to ~~a~~ the control panel (2) and at least a second interface (35) for connection of the operating module (31), and the operating module (31) having at least an interface (34) for connection to the control module (32), the operating module (31) further including a parallel-in-serial-out shift register (SR) for receiving parallel data representing a status of the operating module (31) and serially outputting the data, the shift register being clocked by the control module (32) via the interface (34, 35).
2. (Currently amended) The modular control ~~panel~~ unit (3) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating module (31) and the control module (32) are arranged so that their respective interfaces (34, 35) can be directly connected.
3. (Currently amended) The modular control ~~panel~~ unit (3) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the operating module (31) includes ~~a parallel-to-serial converter (SR) for serially outputting control component states and~~ a demultiplexer (DEMUX) for driving display means associated with respective control components.
4. (Currently amended) The modular control ~~panel~~ unit as claimed in claim 3, wherein an identification (ID) of the operating module (31) is applied in parallel form to the inputs of the shift register (SR) and serially output via the interface (34).
5. (Currently amended) The modular control panel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control module (32) further comprises an interface (37) for driving a video apparatus (1), a processor ( $\mu$ P) and a memory (RAM, ROM) for generating control data, and a demultiplexer (DEMUX) for converting control component states which are present in serial form, as well as ~~a parallel-to-serial converter (SR)~~ means for combining control data for display elements to a serial data stream.

6. (Currently amended) A modular control ~~panel~~ unit (3) for a video apparatus comprising:  
an operating module (31) having at least one interface (34) and an identification code;  
and

a control module (32) having a first interface (37) for connection to a control panel and  
at least a second interface (35) for connection to the at least one operating module interface  
(34), wherein said control module (32) identifies the type and structure of the operating module  
(31) using the identification code,

wherein the operating module (31) further comprises:

a parallel-in-serial-out shift register (SR) for serially outputting a status of the operating  
module (31) and identification code, which shift register is clocked by the control module via  
the interface (34, 35).

7. (Currently amended) The modular control ~~panel~~ unit (3) as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
the operating module (31) and control module (32) are arranged so that their interfaces (34, 35)  
can be directly connected.

8. (Currently amended) The modular control ~~panel~~ unit (3) as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
the operating module (31) further comprises:

~~a parallel-to-serial converter (SR) for serially outputting control component states; and~~  
a demultiplexer (DEMUX) for driving display means associated with the respective  
control components.

9. (Currently amended) The modular control ~~panel~~ unit (3) as claimed in claim 6, wherein  
the control module (32) further comprises:

an interface (37) for driving the video apparatus;  
a processor ( $\mu$ P);  
a memory (RAM, ROM) for generating control data;  
a demultiplexer (DEMUX) for converting control component states which are present in  
serial form; and  
~~a parallel-to-serial converter (SR)~~ means for combining control data for display elements  
to a serial data stream.

--10. (New) A modular control unit (3) for a control panel (2) for video apparatus, the control  
unit (3) comprising at least an operating module (31) and a control module (32), the control  
module (32) comprising a first interface (37) for connection to the control panel (2) and at least  
a second interface (35) for connection of the operating module (31), and the operating module  
(31) comprising at least an interface (34) for connection to the control module (32), the  
operating module (31) further comprising a plurality of keys, each of said plurality of keys (33)  
having a liquid crystal display.--